

# Downsizing Incentive Scheme

Information for Milton Keynes City Council  
tenants looking to downsize



# Are you under occupying a social housing property in Milton Keynes?

We are giving cash payments to tenants with spare rooms to help them move to smaller properties which are more appropriate for their needs. This will help homeless families, those on our housing register who are living in overcrowded properties or within temporary accommodation.

The effects of unsuitable housing can be detrimental to many aspects of life, including:

- Performance at school
- Child development
- Health – physical, mental, and emotional
- Family relations

Our Downsizing Incentive Scheme will allow us to help you move into a smaller property that meets your needs - whilst financially compensating you and helping families in our local area to move into a larger property.

Downsizing can also help improve your current living circumstances; for example, through moving to a new area of Milton Keynes, saving money on bills, or allowing you to move into a property that is the right size for you to manage.

## The Benefits

Along with benefits to your current living situation, we will:

- 🏠 Make your move a priority, granting you a Band A on the allocation scheme and helping to find a new place to live that is right for you by taking into consideration your individual circumstances.
- 🏠 Offset any rent arrears, home movement costs or carpets for your new property against these payments.
- 🏠 Compensate you in line with our Downsizing Incentive Payment, as outlined overleaf.

## Downsizing incentive payment examples:

Current property size	New property size	Maximum grant available	Removal expenses (up to)	Total grant (up to)
4 Bed	Sheltered	£4000	£500	£4500
4 Bed	3 Bed	£1000	£500	£1500
4 Bed	2 Bed	£2000	£500	£2500
4 Bed	1 Bed	£3000	£500	£3500
3 Bed	Sheltered	£3000	£500	£3500
3 Bed	2 Bed	£1000	£500	£1500
3 Bed	1 Bed	£2000	£500	£2500
2 Bed	Sheltered	£2000	£500	£2500
2 Bed	1 Bed	£1000	£500	£1500

## Do I qualify?

You are eligible to apply for the downsizing incentive if you:

- Are a secure tenant of Milton Keynes City Council or hold a tenancy with a registered social landlord, who agrees to re-let their home to a Milton Keynes City Council tenant.
- Hold a secure tenancy and have done so for a minimum of 2 years.
- Have kept to the terms of your tenancy agreement.
- Are under occupying a general needs family home with 2 or more bedrooms, which is regarded to be in demand when considered against the Housing Register and willing to downsize.
- Have no housing related debt with the Council, although payment can be made to offset some of these debts.
- Have no Council tax arrears.
- Agree to provide vacant possession of your present home.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept applications where:

- Any member of the household would be made homeless because of downsizing.
- The tenant will be making themselves and their household overcrowded.
- The tenant has arranged a move under the mutual exchange process.
- The tenant has an introductory tenancy.
- The tenant is required to downsize following a succession.
- The tenant is being 'decanted' due to their current property being part of a refurbishment/redevelopment scheme.
- The tenant is not 'a qualifying' applicant on the Housing Register.
- The tenant has previously received a downsizing incentive scheme payment from Milton Keynes City Council within the last two years.

## How to Apply

Contact the Housing Allocation team if you have any questions around downsizing and how we can help you.

 **01908 252937 (option 4)**

 **housing.allocations@milton-keynes.gov.uk**

 **<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/housing/downsizing>** for more information

Please Scan



Let us know if you would like to discuss anything in this document.



  
**DOWNSIZING**